

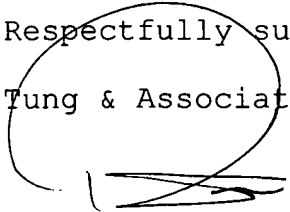
REMARKS

Applicants hereby elect with traverse the prosecution of Group I, apparatus claims 1-8. Non-elected claims 9-20 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner. The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Contrary to the Examiner's contention that "in this case the process as claimed can be practiced by hand", the Applicants respectfully submit that the process as defined in independent claim 9 recites the primary steps of "providing relative motion between said ingot and the polishing pad; and causing contact between said ingot and the polishing pad", can only be practiced by the apparatus defined in claim 1 in a pre-conditioning apparatus. A consistent rotating speed can never be achieved by turning by hand, as alleged by the Examiner.

The election requirement is respectfully traversed, and the simultaneous examination of method claims 9-20, together with the apparatus claims 1-8, is respectfully solicited from the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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